

Dear Friends of Knoxville Habitat for Humanity,

I am committed to this ministry because, as we often say, we provide “a hand up, not a hand out” to deserving families. The most common misperception about Knoxville Habitat is that our homes are given away, but this is certainly not true. We sell our homes to families at no profit, using zero-interest loans to make them affordable for people that cannot purchase a house with a conventional mortgage.

Our family partners are hardworking and contributing members of our community that are working hard to build strength, stability and self-reliance through homeownership. With their committed willingness to partner with Habitat, these families are heavily invested in our process and contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” before moving into their new home. This sweat equity is acquired through educational classes, hands-on building of the home and other work that helps these families become more successful and educated homeowners.

We have witnessed and learned how homeownership through Habitat can improve the lives of a family. Their sense of dignity and pride grows. Parents can provide better stability for children. Their health, physical safety and security are likely to improve. Education and job prospects can increase. Family relations and interaction are improved.

Our work to build homes, communities and hope would not be possible without the support and dedication of our Covenant Partners, donors and volunteers. I encourage you to look into all the ways you can become a part of our organization. Here are a few ways to get involved:

- Volunteer – Of course, there are construction volunteers that work on a job site and in the warehouse; but if hammering is not your thing, there are still plenty of ways you can help. We need volunteers in the ReStore, as class instructors or at one of our events throughout the year.
- Donate – You can donate money as well as items for our ReStore, property or services.
- Shop – Check out our ReStore on Downtown West Blvd.

Our homeowners are not the only lives changed by the Habitat experience. Supporters of this ministry are constantly touched by the positive impact they bring to lives and this community.

The pride we witness when a family is handed the keys to their new home is one of the most heartwarming moments we are fortunate enough to experience. The American dream becomes a reality and lives are changed forever.

I invite you to join us in our shared vision of a community where everyone has a decent place to live.

Sincerely,

Chad Simpson

Board Chairperson

Knoxville Habitat for Humanity